

concerned when I hear some of my colleagues throwing barbs at the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey in an attempt to lay all the blame for this complicated issue at their doorstep. Because by distorting the facts, we are potentially undermining our good-faith, efforts to see this conflict resolved and to see peace and prosperity come to all the people of Cyprus.

The fact is that when the Island of Cyprus gained its independence from Great Britain in 1960, the Republic's constitution specifically defined a power-sharing arrangement which required a Greek Cypriot president and a Turkish Cypriot vice-president, each elected by their constituency.

The fact is that in 1963 Greek Cypriot President Makarios proposed sweeping constitutional modifications which heavily favored the Greek Cypriot community. The changes removed most of the checks and balances which had been built into the constitution to ensure the safety and equal status of the Turkish Cypriots. The inevitable result was a serious deterioration of relations between the two parties, which came to a head in December 1963, when armed Greek Cypriots attacked and killed many Turkish Cypriots who were unable to escape. The armed conflict spread quickly, with the Turkish Cypriots eventually being forced to withdraw into enclaves to defend themselves.

For the next 10 years, the campaign of the Greek Cypriots cost the Turkish Cypriots many lives and untold suffering, as well as their equal partnership status in the Cyprus government.

Former United States Undersecretary of State, George Ball, who, among others, was actively dealing with the crisis at the time, remarked in his memoirs entitled *The Past Has Another Pattern*, that Makarios has turned "this beautiful little island into his private abattoir" (p. 341). Ball went on to say that "Makarios' central interest was to block off Turkish intervention so that he and his Greek Cypriots could go on happily massacring the Turkish Cypriots" (p. 345).

The fact is that during the presidential elections of 1974, Archbishop of Cyprus Makarios—the Greek Cypriot leader at the time—escalated the crisis by embracing Enosis, or Union with Greece, as his election platform. Although Makarios won reelection he also created a power struggle between the military junta in control of mainland Greece and himself for the control over the Island. That power struggle culminated in a coup which forced Makarios to flee Cyprus and renewed ethnic cleansing of Turkish Cypriots.

In his address to the UN Security Council on July 19, 1974, Makarios himself described the coup as "a clear attack from the outside and a flagrant violation of the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus".

The fact is that in the face of a bloody coup that not only threatened the independence of Cyprus but also resulted in renewed massacres of Turkish Cypriots, Turkey, which was treaty-bound to act as a Guarantor State, was compelled to undertake action on July 20, 1974. And the fact is that as a result of this legitimate and timely action, Turkish Cypriots were saved from imminent destruction, bloodshed among the Greek Cypriots was ended and the independence of Cyprus was protected.

The fact is that the Turkish intervention was legitimate and was internationally confirmed

by, among others, the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe (CACE). CACE resolution 573, dated July 29, 1974, clearly states, "Turkey exercised its right of intervention in accordance with Article IV of the Guarantee Treaty of 1960."

Unfortunately, since 1974, and in defiance of the rule of law and the established principle that federations can only be built on a foundation of equal partnership, the Greek Cypriot side continues to claim exclusive sovereignty over the entire Island. In 1983, this prompted the Turkish Cypriot side to assert its rights by proclaiming the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC).

After many unsuccessful attempts at reconciliation, U.N.-led direct talks between the two sides began in early 2002. The talks sketched out a settlement—the Annan Plan—which was voted on in simultaneous referenda held on each side on April 24, 2004.

The fact is that Turkish Cypriots approved the Annan Plan by a clear and overwhelming majority of 65 percent but Greek Cypriots—under heavy pressure from the Greek Cypriot government—rejected it by an even larger majority of 76 percent. The Turkish Cypriots were internationally and rightly praised for their "courageous vote in favor of the proposals".

The Greek Cypriot side has since been trying to justify its rejection by claiming, among other things, that the plan "did not meet the interests of the country" and that "it did not provide for guarantees to ensure the complete implementation of commitments under the plan". However, impartial European Union diplomats, closely associated with the reconciliation effort, have gone so far as to say very undiplomatically, that the Greek Cypriot people had been "lied to" by the Greek Cypriot government as to the details of the Annan plan.

As public servants I think the members of this House understand that no compromise worth its salt ever fully meets all of the demands of either side, nor could it do so or it wouldn't be much of a compromise. The fact is that the Annan Plan was a carefully balanced compromise that certainly from the Turkish Cypriot perspective represented immense sacrifices on the part of the Turkish Cypriots, on such key issues as land, resettlement, property and security.

The Greek government and several former Greek government leaders fully supported the plan and the Turkish government was also pivotal in encouraging the Turkish Cypriots to approve the plan. In the end, the only people who were not willing to make the sacrifices necessary to bring peace to this troubled island where the Greek Cypriots—yet they were inexplicably rewarded membership to the EU; although some EU leaders have subsequently stated that doing so was a mistake.

The fact is that despite the Greek Cypriots' failure to embrace peace and the international community's failure to end the economic isolation of the Turkish Cypriots; Turkish Cypriots continue to seek a just and peaceful settlement to this crisis.

Most recently, Turkey and Turkish Cypriots have supported implementation of the July 8, 2006, United Nations-brokered agreement between Greek Cypriot leader Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat relating to the reunification of Cyprus through a process of bi-communal discussions.

Some of my colleagues, particularly those who support House Resolution 405 (H. Res.

405), would have this House believe that Turkish Cypriots are unwilling to proceed with the July 8 agreement. But I would ask my colleagues this simple question; when offered the chance to vote for peace which side rejected peace, Turkish or Greek? The answer is Greek.

Under the circumstances it should make one wonder if Greek Cypriots, having already forestalled UN efforts to resolve the Cyprus issue—and been rewarded for it through EU membership—whether they truly feel under pressure to seek a just solution. The fact is that the status quo benefits Greek Cypriots significantly more than Turkish Cypriots and it seems to me that if either side has an incentive to delay implementation of the July 8 agreement; it would be the Greek Cypriots.

Madam Speaker, facts are stubborn things; and as the facts in this case clearly show, the crisis on Cyprus is significantly more complex than the "blame Turkey" special interest groups would like people to believe. It's time for these groups and their friends in Congress to end the "blame game" and get down to the real work of reshaping Cyprus into a Cyprus that respects human rights and the fundamental freedoms for all Cypriots.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. BARBARA SCRUGGS

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, in June, my hometown of Grantville, GA, lost one of its treasures upon the death of Mrs. Barbara Scruggs, who was an activist, a public servant, a devoted wife and mother, a patron of the arts and an American patriot. She was 75.

Born in Pennsylvania, Barbara wasn't a Georgia native. She chose Georgia as her home and loved the state and Coweta County with the zeal of a convert.

After graduating from nursing school in 1954, Barbara eventually served her Nation as a nurse in the U.S. Air Force in 1957 and 1958. It was during that time that she fell in love with a fighter pilot named William Gordon Scruggs, whom she married in 1957. They eventually moved to Coweta County and raised three children together there.

Growing up in Pennsylvania, Barbara's parents had raised her as a Republican, but when she moved South, Georgia was conservative but it was a one-party state controlled at every level by Democrats. Barbara became a politically active Republican in Coweta County at a time when no one in Georgia had ever heard of such a thing. To paraphrase a country song, Barbara Scruggs was a Republican when being a Republican wasn't cool.

She always followed politics closely and got involved. She took leadership positions in the Coweta County Republican Party and the Coweta County Republican Women's Club, handling the latter's newsletter duties for many years. Prominent in the Georgia GOP—described as a volunteer always willing to do more than her share—she was selected as a delegate to the 2000 Republican National Convention, where she proudly donned patriotic attire and donated to future first lady Laura Bush's book drive for local libraries.

In 1984, she moved from activist to public servant. She ran for and won a seat on the Coweta County school board. As a board member for 12 years, Barbara saw the "big picture," said former Superintendent Bobby Welch, adding that she had a passion for improving opportunities for students, faculty and staff.

In Barbara's heart, politics had to share space with her love of art. She indulged this interest later in life, her husband said, as she found she had more free time. She became a big supporter of the Newnan-Coweta Art Association. In fact, she was attending a reception for an exhibition opening at the Centre for the Performing and Visual Arts on the night that she died. "She died, if you have to go, under perfect circumstances, doing the thing she loved so much," her husband told the Newnan Times-Herald.

Barbara Scruggs gave her all for her community. She'll be missed in Grantville and throughout Coweta County, but I consider this a personal loss as well. Throughout my career in elected office, I could always count on Barbara's support. My wife Joan and I have kept the Scruggs family in our thoughts and prayers this summer.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns over the continuing human rights violations perpetrated by the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) stationed in San Salvador, El Salvador. We cannot expect to promote stable democratic institutions in El Salvador by funneling military aid through ILEA to support local police forces engaging in repressive tactics.

Since President Clinton called for the establishment of the ILEA in 1995, the United States and participating nations have founded ILEAs in Hungary, Thailand, Botswana, El Salvador, and the United States. Through ILEA, the U.S. has continued to provide military aid, training, and arms sales to participating countries, which threatens to aggravate regional conflicts and sideline programs designed to halt human rights abuses.

The use of excessive force by police and security forces in El Salvador when targeting activists and their failure to protect workers rights to organize and bargain collectively has been at worse exacerbated and at best unchecked by ILEA's presence in the country. Furthermore, the government's failure to investigate human rights abuses calls into question the need for ILEA to provide security forces with more tools that can be used to repress those working toward a truly representative democracy in El Salvador.

Madam Speaker, the Congress must take a hard and serious look at whether we should continue funding ILEA. We should not support programs that claim to fight public corruption and provide opportunities for the global law enforcement community to share their expertise and training when, in fact, they further the oppression of social and labor activists and do nothing to end a country's human rights violations.

A TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY WASHINGTON

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, Mary McLeod Bethune once said, "We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends." As one of the most influential African-American educators of our time, Mary McLeod Bethune knew this better than most, dedicating her life to the principle that learning is a lifelong process and as a result, knows no bounds in the difference it can make.

Another woman who dedicated her life to this principal was Dorothy Washington of Lumberton, North Carolina, who recently passed away.

Ms. Washington entered graduate school in 1947, a time when many African-American women were prohibited from attending universities and segregation in public schools was widespread. Despite these intimidating barriers, Ms. Washington remained steadfastly determined to pursue her dream of a higher education and became a role model for those in her community. She instilled this very same determination in every life she touched.

My wife recently attended Ms. Washington's funeral and was impressed by the number of people who expressed how Ms. Washington had touched their lives. Ms. Washington had touched my family's life during her retirement years, when she was kind enough to care for our two sons (who were toddlers at the time) so that we could participate in a weekly Bible study luncheon. She was always gracious, kind, patient, and understanding—ever ready to help. We were blessed by her kindness.

During her four decades teaching in Robeson County, Ms. Washington cared deeply for her students, sharing with them her passion for Greek and Roman mythological literature, often buying textbooks with money out of her own pocket. She had a genuine appreciation for the arts and humanities, serving as choir director and school librarian. Ms. Washington was determined to educate her students on the adventures that could be found outside the municipal lines of a small, rural town, while simultaneously cultivating an appreciation for the treasures that could be found in their own backyards.

She received her undergraduate degree from Saint Augustine College in Raleigh, North Carolina, and went on to earn her master's at the University of Michigan.

Madam Speaker, what an amazing place the world would be if we all had the influence of a Dorothy Washington in our lives! This small-town educator has left behind a deep legacy that spans generations and will surely continue for many years to come.

May God bless to our memories the work of Dorothy Washington and the lives she touched.

COMMENDING DAVID RAY RITCHESON AND RECOGNIZING HIS EFFORTS IN PROMOTING FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO COMBAT HATE CRIMES

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 535, Commending David Ray Ritcheson and his efforts in promoting legislation to combat hate crime.

David Ray Ritcheson was the victim of a horrific hate crime in Houston by white supremacists in April of 2006 because of his Mexican heritage.

He was brutally attacked with a metal pipe, burnt with cigarettes, had bleach poured on him, and was kicked with steel toed boots. His injuries from the attack were so severe that he underwent 30 surgeries and was scheduled for even more surgeries.

Miraculously, David was recovering from his injuries and eventually returned to school.

David wanted to move past his horrific experience, but he bravely came to Washington in April to testify before the House Judiciary Committee in support of H.R. 1592, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007.

David's case was never tried as a hate crime. Due to Federal statutes and under Texas criminal law, first-degree felonies are exempt from hate crimes provisions.

In his testimony, David called upon the Congress to give local authorities the ability to federally prosecute hate crimes. He said "if these crimes cannot be prevented, the federal government must have the authority to support state and local bias crime prosecutions."

I strongly agree with David and his testimony helped the House pass H.R. 1592, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007.

Unfortunately, earlier this month, David took his own life.

David deserves to be remembered for the hero that he was and honored for his hard work to combat hate crimes.

I support this bill which will honor David Ray Ritcheson and urge my colleagues to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, due to my return from a trip on official business yesterday, July 23, 2007, I was not present to cast my votes on rollcall votes 687, 688, 689, and 690. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 687, yea on rollcall 688, "yea" on rollcall 689, and "no" on rollcall 690.